

Celebrating Neighborhoods Month

The quality of life in our city depends upon the quality of our neighborhoods. The city of Raleigh has been on the cutting edge of encouraging neighborhood involvement in the governance process, through our Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs), in order to improve the quality of its neighborhoods and the general quality of life in our city. In the past few years we have added another component for participation, that of Neighborhood Associations through our Neighborhood Association Registry.

The importance of our neighborhoods and participation of our citizenry has been further underscored by celebrating our neighborhoods during the month of September. Annually, the Mayor issues a proclamation designating September as "Neighborhoods Month". The city took the leadership in instituting an annual Neighborhood Exchange. This Exchange consists of a Friday evening banquet with a motivational speaker. In the future our desire is to recognize neighborhoods for involvement and accomplishments. On Saturday, breakout sessions on topics of interest regarding neighborhood quality occur. The Exchange culminates with a luncheon and a speaker that issues a charge to our neighborhoods for the ensuing year. The Neighborhood Exchange in 2007 will occur on September 14 & 15 at the Sheraton Raleigh Capitol Center Hotel, 421 South Salisbury Street, downtown.

In addition, we would like to have outdoor activities on a separate week end celebrating individual neighborhoods. These outdoor activities could consist of a parade, tours of neighborhoods and a closing picnic or the hosting of a picnic in individual neighborhoods for those touring that particular neighborhood.

We are appealing to existing Neighborhood Association leaders/members, CAC leaders and participants, garden clubs, homeowners associations, businesses and other civic minded citizens and institutional representatives to volunteer to serve on either the Neighborhood Exchange Committee or the Neighborhoods Month Committee. These committees will begin meeting in January 2007 to map out strategies for celebrating Neighborhoods Month.

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